

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. An isolated nucleic acid comprising a member selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 4, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26 or 28;
  - (b) a polynucleotide amplified from a plant tissue nucleic acid library using the primers of SEQ ID NOS: 5-8, provided the polynucleotide is not SEQ ID NO: 9 or the genomic sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or 9.
  - (c) a polynucleotide comprising at least:
    - (i) 280 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NO:1,
    - (ii) 20 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NO: 3,
    - (iii) 30 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NO: 3;
    - (iv) 50 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NO: 11,
    - (v) 50 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NO: 13,
    - (vi) 297 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NO: 15,
    - (vii) 20 contiguous bases of the coding region of SEQ ID NO: 17, or
    - (viii) 30 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NO: 19, 21, 23, 25, 27 or 29;
  - (d) a polynucleotide encoding a plant or bacteria phytyl/prenyltransferase protein other than an *Arabidopsis thaliana* or *Synechocystis* phytyl/prenyltransferase protein;
  - (e) a polynucleotide having at least 50% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein the % sequence identity is based on the entire coding sequence and is determined by BLAST 2.0 using default parameters;
  - (f) a polynucleotide having
    - (i) at least 70% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 3, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 25, 27 or 29,
    - (ii) at least 70% sequence identity to nucleotides spanning positions 226 to 1098 of SEQ ID NO: 15,
    - (iii) at least 72% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 21wherein the % sequence identity is based on the coding sequence and is determined by GAP using default parameters;

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- (g) a polynucleotide having at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 1 wherein the % sequence identity is based on the entire sequence and is determined by GAP using default parameters;
  - (h) a polynucleotide which selectively hybridizes, under stringent hybridization conditions and a wash in 2X SSC at 50°C, to a hybridization probe the polynucleotide sequence of which consists of SEQ ID NO: 3, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27 or 29, or the complement of SEQ ID NO: 3, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27 or 29, provided the polynucleotide is not SEQ ID NO: 9, a genomic sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or 9, a nucleotide sequence of any length in the region between positions 55 to 365 of SEQ ID NO: 15 or a nucleotide sequence of any length in the region between positions 801 to 1159 of SEQ ID NO: 17;
  - (i) a polynucleotide comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27 or 29;
  - (j) a polynucleotide consisting of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1, and
  - (k) a polynucleotide complementary to a polynucleotide of (a) through (j).
2. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1 wherein the polynucleotide of (c) further comprises contiguous nucleotides that encode for the first ten amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 4, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26 or 28.
3. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1 wherein the phytyl/prenyltransferase polynucleotide of (d) is from maize, soybean, rice, wheat, *Arabidopsis thaliana* or *Synechocystis*.
4. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1 wherein the polynucleotide of (e) modulates a prenyllipid biosynthetic pathway.
5. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 4 wherein 2-demethyl-phytylplastoquinol or 2-demethyl-plastoquinol-9 is modified.

6. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1 wherein the polynucleotide of (f) modulates a prenyllipid biosynthetic pathway.
7. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 6 wherein 2-demethyl-phytylplastoquinol or 2-demethyl-plastoquinol-9 is modified.
8. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1 wherein the polynucleotide of (h) comprises at least 25 nucleotides in length and hybridizes under stringent conditions including a wash with 0.1X SSC at 60°C to a hybridization probe the polynucleotide sequence of which consists of SEQ ID NO: 3, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27 or 29, or the complement of SEQ ID NO: 3, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27 or 29, provided the polynucleotide is not SEQ ID NO: 9, a genomic sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or 9, a nucleotide sequence of any length in the region between positions 55 to 365 of SEQ ID NO: 15 or a nucleotide sequence of any length in the region between positions 801 to 1159 of SEQ ID NO: 17.
9. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 8 wherein the isolated nucleic acid modulates a prenyllipid biosynthetic pathway.
10. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 9 wherein 2-demethyl-phytylplastoquinol or 2-demethyl-plastoquinol-9 is modified.
11. A vector comprising at least one nucleic acid of claim 1 or SEQ ID NO: 9.
12. An expression cassette comprising at least one nucleic acid of claim 1 or SEQ ID NO: 9 operably linked to a promoter, wherein the nucleic acid is in sense or antisense orientation.
13. A host cell into which is introduced with at least one expression cassette of claim 12.
14. The host cell of claim 13 that is a plant cell.

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15. A transgenic plant comprising at least one expression cassette of claim 13.
16. The transgenic plant of claim 15, wherein the plant is corn, soybean, sunflower, sorghum, canola, wheat, alfalfa, cotton, rice, barley, millet, *Arabidopsis thaliana*, tomato, *Brassica*, vegetables, peppers, potatoes, apples, spinach, or lettuce.
17. A seed from the transgenic plant of claim 16.
18. The seed of claim 17, wherein the seed is from corn, soybean, sunflower, sorghum, canola, wheat, alfalfa, cotton, rice, barley, millet, *Arabidopsis thaliana*, tomato, *Brassica*, vegetables, peppers, potatoes, apples, spinach, or lettuce.
19. An isolated protein comprising a member selected from the group consisting of:
  - (a) a polypeptide comprising at least 25 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26 or 28;
  - (b) a polypeptide which is a plant or bacterial phytyl/prenyltransferase protein;
  - (c) a polypeptide comprising at least 55% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, wherein the % sequence identity is based on the entire sequence and is determined by BLAST 2.0 using default parameters and has at least one epitope in common with a phytyl/prenyltransferase;
  - (d) a polypeptide comprising at least
    - (i) 75% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 24, 26 or 28, or
    - (ii) 77% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 22, wherein the % sequence identity is based on the entire sequence and is determined by GAP using default parameters and has at least one epitope in common with a phytyl/prenyltransferase;
  - (e) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27 or 29; and

(f) a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26 or 28.

20. The protein of claim 19, wherein the polypeptide is catalytically active.

21. A ribonucleic acid sequence encoding the protein of claim 20.

22. A method for modulating the level of phytyl/prenyltransferase protein in a plant, comprising:

(a) stably transforming a plant cell with a phytyl/prenyltransferase polynucleotide operably linked to a promoter, wherein the polynucleotide is in sense or antisense orientation;

(b) growing the plant cell under plant growing conditions to produce a regenerated plant capable of expressing the polynucleotide for a time sufficient to modulate the level of phytyl/prenyltransferase protein in the plant.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the phytyl/prenyltransferase polynucleotide is selected from those of SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27 or 29.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein the plant is corn, soybean, sunflower, sorghum, canola, wheat, alfalfa, cotton, rice, barley, millet or *Arabidopsis thaliana*, tomato, *Brassica*, vegetables, peppers, potatoes, apples, spinach, or lettuce.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein phytyl/prenyltransferase protein is increased.

26. The method of claim 22, wherein phytyl/prenyltransferase protein is decreased.

27. A method for modulating the level of tocopherol in a plant, comprising:

- (a) stably transforming a plant cell with a phytyl/prenyltransferase polynucleotide operably linked to a promoter, wherein the polynucleotide is in sense or antisense orientation;
- (b) growing the plant cell under plant growing conditions to produce a regenerated plant capable of expressing the polynucleotide for a time sufficient to modulate level of tocopherol in the plant.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the phytyl/prenyltransferase polynucleotide is selected from SEQ ID NO 1, 3, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27 or 29.

29. A method for modulating the level of plastiquinone in a plant, comprising:

- (a) stably transforming a plant cell with a phytyl/prenyltransferase polynucleotide operably linked to a promoter, wherein the polynucleotide is in sense or antisense orientation;
- (b) growing the plant cell under plant growing conditions to produce a regenerated plant capable of expressing the polynucleotide for a time sufficient to modulate the level of plastiquinone in the plant.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the phytyl/prenyltransferase polynucleotide is selected from SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27 or 29.

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